DRTs during the year 2002-03. There is, therefore, no proposal to establish more DRTs at this stage.

Payback of Excise Refund by Tobacco Companies

168. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the tobacco companies are required to pay back the excise refund received by them as per past policy which has been revised retrospectively;

(b) if so, the company-wise details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for policy revision with retrospective effect?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (c) The notifications of the Government of India in the Ministry of Finance, (Department of Revenue) Nos. G.S.R. 508(E), dated 8th July, 1999 and G.S.R. 509(E), dated 8th July, 1999 providing physical incentives by way of excise duty refund on specified products manufactured in the North-Eastern Region have been amended retrospectively *vide* Section 154 of the Finance Act, 2003 (No. 32 of 2003). As a consequence of these amendments, recovery is to be made of the excise refund paid to the manufacturers. The company-wise details of the amount to be recovered are given in the enclosed Statement (*see* below). The reason for giving retrospective effect to the above mentioned notification is to prevent the reported mis-use of the benefit.

Statement

Company-wise details of the amount of excise refund to be recovered

Sl. No.	Name of the Company	Amount (Rs. In lakhs)
1	2	3
1.	M/s New Tobacco Co. (P) Ltd.	276.91
2.	M/s Sri Agasthya Industries	848.63
3.	M/s Sunflag Industries (P) Ltd.	1310.36
4.	M/s Frontier Multi Products	1146.50
5.	M/s R.C. Tobacco (P) Ltd.	1408.89

1	2	3
6.	M/s Assam Tobacco (P) Ltd.	201.46
7.	M/s Golconda Industries	1609.37
8.	M/s Assam Cigarette Co. (P) Ltd.	1447.86
9.	M/s Tirupati Tobacco (P) Ltd.	559.39
10.	M/s NETCO Ltd.	9351.17
11.	M/s New Zone India (P) Ltd.	1348.13
12.	M/s A.V.M. Tobacco (P) Ltd.	57.65
13.	M/s Kaziranga Tobacco Products Ltd.	363.45
14.	M/s Kreesna Industries Pvt. Ltd.	482.85

Permanent amnesty scheme

169. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to introduce a permanent amnesty scheme;

(b) if so, what are the features of the permanent amnesty scheme;

(c) whether the new scheme is expected to exist side by side with the stricter tax regime; and

(d) whether under this scheme the tax payer will be asked to pay tax at the rate prevailing at the time the income originated or at the current rate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Foreign Debt

170. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India's foreign debt has mounted to more than US$ 105.00 billion presently;